

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4326

LAGOS FOR YOUNG, MOOSE AND MC HENRY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV UK US SF WA
SUBJ: SAG ESTABLISHMENT OF ETHNIC UNITS IN NAMIBIA

REF: LAGOS 9550, STATE 201084

1. WE AGREE THAT THE FIVE SHOULD MAKE UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR TO THE SAG THAT THE FORMATION OF ETHNIC MILITARY UNITS IS UNACCEPTABLE AND IF THEY PERSIST IN THEIR ACCELERATED FORMATION OF THESE UNITS, THEY WILL MAKE A SETTLEMENT IMPOSSIBLE.
2. THE POINT WAS ADDRESSED IN PARAGRAPH J OF THE PRESENTATION MADE TO BRAND FOURIE LAST FRIDAY BUT NOT IN TERMS OF IT BEING A MAKE-OR-BREAK ISSUE WHICH IT CLEARLY IS. RATHER THAN THE FIVE AMBASSADORS HERE MAKING A SEPARATE DEMARCHE ON THIS ISSUE, I RECOMMEND THAT WE USE THE PRESENCE OF DON MCHENRY IN PRETORIA ON MONDAY TO SEEK OUT PIK BOTHA DURING THE AFTERNOON (WHICH IS OPEN) AND ON BEHALF OF THE FIVE FILL HIM IN ON
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THE TALKS WITH NUJOMA IN LAGOS. IN THE PROCESS HE CAN LAY IT ON THE LINE THAT THE SAG SHOULD HALT DEVELOPMENT OF THESE UNITS, LEAVING THE MATTER OF HOW TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD TO THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL AND UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. THEN WHEN THE NEW YORK GROUP NEXT MEETS WITH THE SAG, THEY CAN REVIEW WHAT THE SAG HAS DONE TO DESIST AND MAKE

NECESSARY FOLLOWUP. I DO NOT REGARD THIS APPROACH AS OVERLOADING THE CIRCUIT.

3. THE APPROACH WE RECOMMEND THAT MCHENRY TAKE WITH BOTHA IS FOLLOWING:

--THE REPORTS REACHING THE CG ABOUT THE SAG'S ACCELERATED EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH ETHNIC MILITARY UNITS IS DEEPLY DISTURBING. (FOLLOW WITH ILLUSTRATIVE POINTS.)

--EFFORTS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT ON NAMIBIA WILL FOUNDER UNLESS THE SAG STOPS THIS ACTIVITY. SWAPO WILL NOT BE WILLING TO DEMOBILIZE THEIR FORCES IF THESE ELEMENTS ARE MAINTAINED. UN DISPOSITION TO BECOME INVOLVED WILL ALSO BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED. SAG MADE NO MENTION OF THESE UNITS DURING CAPE TOWN TALKS.

--THE QUESTION OF LAW AND ORDER IS ONE WHICH HAS BEEN ADDRESSED IN THE CAPE TOWN TALKS. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT EXISTING POLICE UNITS WOULD CONTINUE THEIR NORMAL FUNCTIONS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL AND IN A MANNER WHICH SATISFIES THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.

--THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE MILITARY FORCES OF AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA IS A MATTER WHICH THE NEW GOVERNMENT MUST ADDRESS AND DECIDE FOR ITSELF. NEITHER THE SAG NOR THE TURNHALLE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ANTICIPATE WHAT THE NATURE OF THOSE FORCES SHOULD BE.

--THE SAG SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO DISBAND
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THESE UNITS. IF THIS IS DIFFICULT FOR THE SAG TO DO UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SHOULD AS A MINIMUM HALT ANY FURTHER EXPANSION OF THESE UNITS IN THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL AND THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO DISBAND EXISTING UNITS AS PART OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF SAG AND SWAPO FORCES.
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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